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NEWS RELEASE

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FALSE STATEMENT IN PASSPORT APPLICATION LANDS SACRAMENTO MAN IN JAIL

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that AMWAAR ALI MUHAMMAD, 32, of Sacramento, pleaded guilty today to making a false statement in the application for a United States passport before United States District Judge Lawrence K. Karlton.

This case is the product of an extensive/joint investigation by the Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service and the Oakland Police Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kyle Reardon, who prosecuted the case, on March 2, 2006, MUHAMMAD applied for a passport in San Francisco using the name and date of birth of another person and presenting a California Identification Card with that person's identifying information. The person whose information was used was similar in size and height to MUHAMMAD. After a joint investigation between the Oakland Police Department and the Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service, it was determined that the passport application was false. MUHAMMAD was indicted on April 5, 2007, by a federal grand jury and was eventually apprehended by Sacramento police after he attempted to pass counterfeit currency at Arden Fair Mall.

The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Karlton on January 23, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.. The maximum statutory penalty for making a false statement in the application for a United States passport is ten years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both a fine and imprisonment, a three year term of

supervised release and a \$100 special assessment. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

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